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etá Toscana, viii., p. 455-457, illustrated). On the thickening of the cell walls in the liber of the young leaves of certain Araliaceæ.

*Handbook of the Fern-Allies: A Synopsis of the Genera and Species of Equisetaceæ, Lycopodiaceæ, Selaginellaceæ and Rhizocarpeæ.* By J. G. Baker; (London: George Bell & Sons, York St., Covent Garden; 8vo, pp. 159). This is essentially the same series already published in the Journal of Botany, but brought together in convenient book form, well indexed and with but few changes in the numbering of the species. It has been much needed, and will be prized as a supplement to the Synopsis Filicum, though we miss a glossary and illustrations of types of groups, such as are found in that work, and which would have added greatly to its value.

*Ashes of Flowering Plants, on Aluminium in the.* By Hikorokuro Yoshida, F.C.S. (Journ. Coll. Sci., Imp. Univ. of Japan, vol. i, pp. 363-367).

There have been published at least two exceptions to the supposed non-occurrence of aluminium in phanerogamous plants, one in *Rhus vernicifera* (Journ. Chem. Soc., xliii, 481), and the second in the juice of the grape (Comptes Rendus, civ., 853). In the present paper the author gives a table of analyses of peas, beans, rice, wheat, barley, millet and buckwheat, in each of which a small percentage of aluminium has been found, varying from .272 in millet to .053 in the pea (*Soja hispida*).

### Proceedings of the Club.

The regular monthly meeting was held at Columbia College, Tuesday evening, Nov. 8th, 1887, the President in the chair and thirty-eight persons present.

Miss Caroline R. Hankey and Mr. Claude Crittenden were elected Active Members.

The committee appointed to prepare resolutions regarding the Herbarium of the United States Department of Agriculture reported as follows:

The committee appointed at the meeting of August 9th, 1887, to prepare an expression of opinion for the Club relative to the Herbarium of the Department of Agriculture at Washington, reported the following:

The TORREY BOTANICAL CLUB, realizing the importance that the Government of the United States should possess, on behalf of botanical science, a complete collection of native plants growing within its limits, for the benefit of those both from home and abroad seeking knowledge in that department of science, respectfully presents the following preamble and resolutions :

*Whereas*, It has been represented to this Club that the botanical collections of the United States Department of Agriculture are incomplete as regards the representation of many species of North American plants and their products, and

*Whereas*, It is necessary for the successful prosecution of botanical investigation by officers of the Department, or by others who may desire to consult the collections, that these should be made as complete as possible in species, varieties and forms of American plants, and

*Whereas*, The greater portion of the desiderata of the Herbarium can be procured by purchase or by the systematic employment of collectors in different portions of our territory at trifling expense as compared with the enduring value of such outlay :

*Resolved*, That the TORREY BOTANICAL CLUB respectfully represents these facts to the honorable Commissioner of Agriculture, with the request that he give them the attention the subject demands, and in the hope that he may be enabled to secure such appropriations as will soon place this National Herbarium in its proper position at the head of American botanical collections.

THOS. HOGG,  
N. L. BRITTON,  
JOS. SCHRENK,  
Committee.

The following letter was received from the Audubon Monument Committee of the New York Academy of Sciences :

*To the Secretary of the Torrey Botanical Club :*

DEAR SIR : The New York Academy of Sciences proposes to erect a monument over the grave of Audubon, in Trinity Church Cemetery, New York city, which shall be worthy the memory of America's greatest ornithologist. It is estimated that from \$6,000 to \$10,000 will be required.

The Academy desires to enlist in this undertaking the co-operation of its corresponding associations in all parts of America, that the enterprise shall not be confined to New York, but shall represent the sentiment of all.

The Committee respectfully requests that you bring the matter to the attention of your Club at its next meeting, and suggests the appointment of an officer or a committee to solicit and collect funds, and with power to co-operate with this Committee in any other way that may seem desirable.

Checks should be made payable to the undersigned and post-office orders drawn on Station H, New York city. All remittances will be promptly acknowledged and recorded in the Transactions of the Academy.

Very respectfully, N. L. BRITTON,  
Secretary and Treasurer.

On motion and carried, the President appointed Prof. J. A. Allen and Mr. E. P. Bicknell such committee.

Rev. Dr. Geo. E. Post, of Beirut, Syria, then addressed the Club on "The Flora of Syria and Palestine." He remarked that

the physical geography of the region was most varied, its most marked feature being a deep valley, trending from Syria on the north to the Gulf of Arabah on the south, and enclosing the main river systems, viz., the Orontes, the Leontes, and the Jordan, with Lake Chilowith and the Dead Sea. The northern portion of this valley is quite shallow, the Orontes flowing out through a gorge to the Mediterranean Sea; the Leontes also flows out through a rocky barrier. Both these rivers rise in an ancient lake-bed, the former flowing north, the latter south; the Jordan, flowing south, empties into the Dead Sea at a depression of 1,294 feet below the Mediterranean. The speaker suggested that this whole valley may have originated in a fault.

This valley is enclosed to the west by the Messire and Lebanon Mts. of Syria, the latter 10,000 to 12,000 feet high, followed to the south by the table-land of Palestine. To the east it is bounded by Anti-Lebanon on the north, and the mountains of Gilead and Moab to the south. All these mountains, with the exception of some outlying spurs of Anti-Lebanon, are of limestone of Cretaceous age.

The region to the east is mainly volcanic. The Bashan Mts. are forty miles east of the Jordan, and from three peaks just north of these a large lava-flow has spread in triangular form towards the west.

This structure of the country has influenced the distribution of plants to a very marked degree. Dr. Post had recognized the following floral belts:

(1.) *The Coast Plain*, a narrow strip bordering the Mediterranean, and having the ordinary plants of other shores of that sea, its flora being the least specialized of any.

(2.) *The Coast Range of Mountains, to about 4,000 feet altitude*, whose flora has strong analogies with the mountains of Greece and Asia Minor, Cyprus and Crete.

(3.) *The Alpine and Sub-Alpine Regions*. These have a highly specialized flora, whose most marked feature is the great abundance of spiny species of *Astragalus*, *Onobrychis*, etc.; *Acantholemon*, which forms domes of awl-shaped foliage two or three feet in diameter, and *Erodium tripomaniaefolium*. The goats devour everything not protected by spines. The great

growth of Cedars is near the northern end of the Lebanon Mts. Dr. Post had also seen them in the range to the north called Amanus ; there are none in the hill country of Palestine, and none reported from Anti-Lebanon. They now grow in Cyprus, and were formerly in the Taurus Range. The largest seen by Dr. Post were 42 feet in circumference.

(4.) *The Valley.* The flora of this deep cleft resembles that of Nubia ; only a few species are peculiar. The Dead Sea is surrounded by very high mountains, and appears to contain no life of any kind. Dr. Post had not observed even Algæ.

(5.) *The Deserts,* whose flora is quite similar to that of neighboring deserts.

(6.) *The Great Interior Plain,* whose flora is very different from any west of the mountains, and very highly specialized. This stretches eastward to the Euphrates.

Dr. Post stated that the whole territory under consideration was not larger than the State of New York, yet 3,500 Phanerogams occurred, against some 1,800 in New York. There are only 20 ferns. The largest natural order is Leguminosæ, next Compositæ, and next Umbelliferæ. Dr. Post has two papers in preparation on undescribed plants from Syria, which will be published in the Reports of the Palestine Exploration Fund and the Victoria Institute of London.

Mr. R. Demcker exhibited a remarkably perfect spadix of *Cocos nucifera*, and a large woody fruit probably of a species of *Lecythis*, from the Isthmus of Panama.

Mr. Hogg distributed specimens of white-flowered *Cnicus lanceolatus*, and *Lechea major*, *L. minor* and *L. maritima*, from Eaton's Neck, Long Island.

Dr. Newberry remarked on the best kinds of fruits now in market, and distributed a variety of Apples, Pears, Grapes and Persimmons. He stated that many varieties of the Japanese *Diospyros Kaki* were now cultivated in Florida and California. Some of those exhibited were as large as and of much the shape of a Tomato.

Mr. Hogg said that the large oblong persimmon shown was dried and packed by the Japanese for export. This variety has very long seeds,